How Did Torrance Come To Be? Founder Tells City's Story

By JARED SIDNEY TORRANCE

(This is part of the record telling of the city's founding. It was written by Torrance's founder, Jared Sidney Torrance. Edit. note.)

The rapid rise in the value of Los Angeles real estate between 1900 and 1910 was the direct cause of the inception of the undertaking to build a new industrial center near the harbor of San Pedro to which subsequently the name of Torrance was given. The Union Tool Company, one of the subsidiary corporations controlled by the Union Oil Co., needed additional area for expansion. The plant in Los Angeles had grown from a small beginning until it covered several acres.

To obtain additional adjoining area the enormous price of $2.50 per square foot, or over $100,000 per acre, was asked!

This was prohibitive. The idea was suggested that the company seek a new location and build an entirely new plant, introducing every labor-saving device possible and the most efficient machinery and equipment obtainable.

The then-existing plant was obsolete, inconvenient and inefficient, having been built up piece-meal upon opposite sides of San Mateo St.

I opened negotiations with the attorney for the Dominguez family which owned a large tract of land between Los Angeles and San Pedro. This resulted in the purchase of about 2800 acres of land from the Dominguez Estate Company for the sum of $980,000; and shortly afterwards of an additional 730 acres from one of the Dominguez heirs for about $550,000.

The Dominguez Land Company was incorporated with a capital of $500,000, and I was made its president. Later the Dominguez Land Corporation was organized and I was made its president, also. The latter corporation had a capital stock of $2,000,000 and it issued bonds for $1,500,000, the proceeds of the sale of which practically paid for the land. This latter corporation became the operating company.

The Union Tool Company took an interest in the enterprise, purchased 24 acres of land, and constructed its present maginificent plant at a cost of over $800,000.

The entire tract was supplied with water by the Dominguez Water Company, formed to supply domestic and irrigation water for nearly 20,000 acres of land. Its 33-inch wide main crosses our lands to a large, substantial reservoir near our northwestern corner.

Noted Planner

We employed the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted of Boston, Mass., to lay out the townsite. The company, as its general manager.

After protracted negotiations, a deal was closed with the Pacific Electric Railway to build its railroad through the townsite and to serve the industrial interests which might locate there.

The contract with them also provided that within three years, before July, 1915, they would remove their general construction and repair shops from Los Angeles and locate the same on 125 acres of our land to be given without further consideration. Their plant was to have been completed and in operation by July 1, 1915.

Iron Works

Next in order of importance a contract was made with the Llewellyn Iron Works of Los Angeles, which provided that they were to acquire a 15 per cent interest in the stock of our company, purchase 25 acres of the company's land and, within 18 months, to construct a new plant thereon and remove their plant thereto.

In the meantime, the Hendrie Rubber Company, the Pacific Metal Products Company, the Torrance Pearl Manufacturing Company, the California Shoe Manufacturing Company, and the Hurrie Window Glass Company have built plants at Torrance. The shoe company failed, but all the rest are in operation.

Town Starts

Coincident with commencement of construction work by the Union Tool Company, the work of laying out the town of Torrance was begun. Architect Olmsted had completed plans and contracts were let by General Manager Sinclair for a vast amount of street work, a water system, street lighting, etc., and for construction of a hundred or more houses, six brick blocks, a passenger depot and various other improvements — all first class.

Rigorous restrictions were adopted, looking toward the creation of a model industrial city. Indeed, some of them, in reference to racial matters, tread pretty hard on the toes of the Constitution of the United States.

In order to provide funds for construction, the company created a serial six per cent coupon note issue of $75,000, due in from one to five years, and the stockholders paid in par for their 5000 shares of stock. The notes were taken largely by the stockholders.

Panic of 1913

As soon as the project was well under way and construction had proceeded to a certain stage a sales campaign was started to sell business and residential lots and acreage. Sales were progressing very satisfactorily and closely approached the $1,000,000 mark when the panic of 1913 intervened and the campaign ended.

The Llewellyn Iron Works was nearly ready to begin actual construction on the ground but stringent financial conditions made it impossible for them to proceed. As the skies began to clear in the summer of 1914, the awful European war burst forth and business stagnation ensued.

The Union Tool Company was employing about 500 men in July, 1914, had completed an extension to their plant and equipment, and was arranging to add an additional 300 employees. Within 90 days the company practically shut down the plant, reducing the working force to less than 50 men. The result was lamentable.

Prophetic Vision

The residents of Torrance will enjoy an environment which will make for good health, good morals and industrial welfare and prosperity, and if conditions return to normal within a reasonable time and the wheels of western progress are again put in motion the public-spirited men behind the enterprise should reap a substantial reward.

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AND
GRIFFEY ELECTRIC
WILL GIVE YOU A FREE
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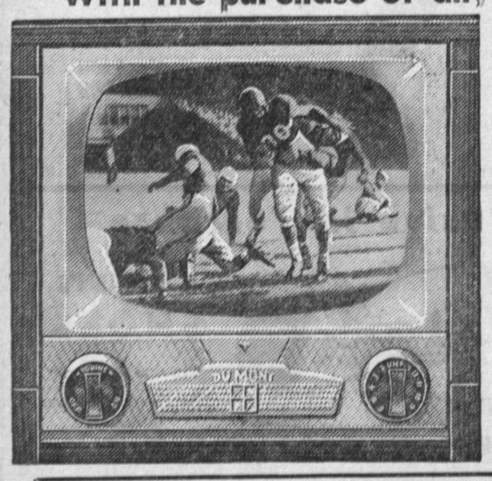
With the purchase of any DuMont T.V. Set



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PAY AS LOW AS
$1.81 PER WK.
17" BARTON by DUMONT

FIRST SHOWING

OPEN Monday Through Friday Evenings 9 P.M.
ALSO ALL DAY
SUNDAY
For Your Shopping Convenience

GRIFFEY ELECTRIC
212 So. Pacific Ave. Redondo Beach
28 YEARS IN SOUTH BAY AREA

DIAL FA. 8-2345

TO START A WANT-AD

FAST RESULTS CALL FA. 8 2 3 4 5

TO START A WANT-AD

Dial FA. 8-2345 and just say "I want to place a want-ad." All ads taken before our Tuesday deadline of 1 p.m. will appear in Thursday's paper.

Cancellations

Ad must appear in paper before it can be cancelled. Cancellations must be made by 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Errors

The Torrance Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of any advertisement and reserves the right to rectify all errors by a corrected insertion of the advertisement.

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● CEMETERIES 3

GREEN HILLS
MEMORIAL PARK
An Endowment Care Cemetery
Serving the Harbor District
For Information
Ph. Ter. 3-4442 27501 Western

● LOST AND FOUND 7

FOUND—Young male dog. Owner identify, pay expenses. Days, FA. 8-4111, Ext. 372. Eves. 2415 Gramercy Ave., Torrance

ANYONE knowing whereabouts of black great dane dog Call OSborne 6-0674

● TRANSPORTATION 8

The Globe Trotters
TRAVEL AGENTS
Airline, Bus, Rail, Steamship
Hotels, Resorts, Tours, Cruises
Redondo Beach
201 S. Pacific Coast Highway
PHILLIP A. AINSWORTH
OWNER-MGR.
FRontier 2-3535

● ANNOUNCEMENTS 9

THE FAMILY STORE
1673 CRAVENS AVE.
FA. 8-7775

100% WOOLS and woolens, 42 to 62 inches wide. Different colors and patterns. $2.95 yd.

ORLONS & WOOLS—42 to 62 inches wide. Stripes and colors. $1.49 to $4.95 yard.

BATES CORDUROY—Prints & plain colors. 37 inches wide. $1.39 yard.

NYLON taffeta half slips with jersey fitted top. Small, medium and large. $2.95, regularly $4.95.

New York and simplicity patterns. Store hours 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone FA. 8-7775

SHAW REAL ESTATE SCHOOL
25318 Bellport Ave.
Harbor City
FR. 4-8974 DA. 6-4950
"Day and Night Classes"

● ANNOUNCEMENTS 9

YOU CAN SHOP
As Early as 8 A.M.
As Late as 10 P.M.
DAILY including SUNDAYS at
HINCKLEY'S MARKET
24020 Narborne Ave.
Lomita DA-69964
"The Supermarket with the Country Store Flavor"

● PERSONALS 10

GET OUT OF DEBT
WITHOUT BORROWING
You make one convenient payment. We'll have all your bills paid whether past due or not. No security and no co-signer. Newcomers to California invited. No charge for consultation. Telephone inquiries invited. Licensed and bonded to State of California since 1940.
CALIFORNIA FINANCE COUNSELORS
EX. 4-3278
(not a loan company)
1515 Wilshire Blvd.
SANTA MONICA
Open Monday & Friday till 8 p.m.
Open Saturdays till noon

FREE — PIANOS — FREE
We will store a PIANO in your home free
Western Piano Mart
3923 W. Olympic Blvd.
2 blocks east of Crenshaw
OPEN SUNDAYS
WYoming 1116

● WHERE TO EAT 11

DELICIOUS MEXICAN FOOD
also available to take out
Gonzalez Restaurant
1122 W. Anaheim
Wilmington TE. 5-2400

● BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 12

ESTABLISHED
Landscape Gardening
BUSINESS
FOR SALE
Including: Truck, ¾-ton; trailer, tractor, renovator, scalper, other various tools.
CALL: TE. 4-1829

CLASSIFIED PHONE FA. 8-2345

● SERVICES (Misc.) 14

CONTRACTORS & HOME OWNERS
Equipment for Rent
★ Tractors, Compressors MIXERS & TRAILERS
★ Rototillers & Garden MACHINES & TOOLS
★ Renovators, Power Mowers
★ Electric Tools of All Kinds
★ Lawn Mowers Sharpened
Keys made while U wait
LOMITA KEY SHOP & EQUIPMENT RENTALS
242nd & Narbonne DA. 6-1910

MIRRORS RESILVERED
ONE-DAY SERVICE
Call For Estimate
R. E. JONES
GLASS & MIRROR CO.
15121 S. Western Ave. ME. 4-6816

ANNOUNCING the New
TORRANCE AMBULANCE SERVICE
The official ambulance service for the City of Torrance
24-HOUR SERVICE
Private and Emergency
1520 Cravens Ave FA. 8-7815

PLATT TV SALES & SERVICE
2153 Lomita Blvd., Lomita
DA. 6-6515

Sewing Machines
Rentals ALL MAKES Repairs
Old Treadles made into electric portables or electrify in your cabinet.
Your Adlermatic dealer
M & S Sewing Mach. Company
1415 Marcelina Ave.
Torrance FAirfax 8-6137

SPRING CLEANING SALE
Upholstered Furniture
CLEANED
RUGS
9x12 cleaned and sized
$3.50 cash and carry
$5.00 pick-up and deliver
BURCHFIELD'S CARPET WORKS
RUGS
1971 Torrance Blvd.
FA. 8-2672

WATER HEATERS
Nationally known brands
Stoves and Refrigerators
Torrance Plumbing Company
Contractors, Repairs, Heating
Established 1917
1418 Marcellina Ave. FA-82654
Opposite Post Office

FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY
Reasonable prices
TE. 5-2860

● BLDG. REMODELING 15

TILE YOUR BATH
$95
For average bath or kitchen. Smart, pastel colors. Old tubs modernized, new drain boards. Glass doors for showers and tubs.
NO DOWN PAYMENT
36 Months To Pay
All Types of Floor Tile
FREE ESTIMATE
GOLDEN TILE CO.
2767 E. Florence LO-56228

FAST RESULTS CLASSIFIED ADS
FA. 8-2345

● BLDG. REMODELING 15

LICENSED contractor, additions remodeling, new construction, commercial and residential. Free estimates. DA. 6-6042

FOR CLASSIFIED ADS PHONE FA. 8-2345

YOUR FLOORS Will Sparkle!
After Our Complete Refinishing We:
● CLEAN
● SAND
● BLEACH
● WAX
Free estimates DA. 6-5803
JACK BULLARD
General Contractor
DA. 6-5730

● BLDG. MATERIAL 15-A ● BLDG. MATERIAL 15-A

Building Materials Special This Week!

1x12 Pine Shelving	9c Lineal Ft.
5 ft. Redwood Fence	98c Per Ft.
For Material Only	
Hollow Core Hardwood Slab Doors No. 2, as low as	$5.75
1/8 Inch Hardwood Panels	$1.50 Each
Imperfects	
1/2x1 5/8 Streamline Casing	4c
1/2x1 5/8 Combination Base and Shoe	4c
2x4—8 Studs	Each 28c
1x6 Fir Sheathing	$70 M
D.H. Window Frames, K.D., 3x4	Each $4.00
6 Ft. Redwood Grapestake Palings. Economy Grade. Very Special. While they last	16c Each

ALSO HAVE
PLYWOOD - PAINT - GARAGE DOORS
HARDWARE and a line of BUILDERS SUPPLIES
Airport Lumber Co., Inc.
4274 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance
FRontier 2-2133 Closed Mondays
Open Tuesday Thru Saturdays 8 till 5:30
Sunday 8 till 3 p.m.

● BLDG. MATERIAL 15-A ● BLDG. MATERIAL 15-A

REDWOOD FENCING
5-ft. solid board redwood
$1.10 running foot
Choice of Several Designs
No. 1 Redwood Boards Pre-cut other sizes at Comparable Prices
FENCES INSTALLED 40c per running ft.
DO IT YOURSELF
Post Set in Concrete 20c per running ft.
D. N. Legg Mill & Lumber Co.
ME. 9-3808
Open daily including Sunday
14119 S. Western Avenue 300 ft. No. of Rosecrans

★
Sandy Loam
TOP SOIL, $1 per yd.
FILL DIRT, 75c per yd.
RUBBISH HAULED
DICK'S
Materials & Equipment Rentals
3155 W. Rosecrans
OS. 5-3405
(1 block west of Crenshaw)
Open Sunday 7 till 6
Sunday deliveries all day

SPECIAL
REDWOOD FENCES INSTALLED
Material for 5-ft. fences $1.10
5-ft. installed $1.50
FHA TERMS
Call for Free Estimates
EL NIDO Lumber Co.
FAirfax 8-2606
Nights FRontier 9-1963
514 WEST CARSON

TOP SOIL
$7 A LOAD
FILL DIRT
$6 A LOAD
Clean-Up & Rubbish Hauling
OS. 6-1923
Ask for Mr. Stites

COMPLETE
Masonry Service
● BAR-B-QUES
● PATIOS
● FIREPLACES
● WALLS
M. M. MITCHELL
Masonry Contractor
Landscaping—Free Estimates

● REPAIR SERVICES 16

TV & Radio Repair Service
Our factory trained technicians have been providing the finest repair service for television and radio owners in the Torrance area. Over 5 years in the same location.
FOR PROMPT EFFICIENT SERVICE TILL 8 P.M.
Phone FA. 8-1721
TORRANCE TEE VEE
Cor. Cravens & Gramercy
Torrance

AL KARONY TV SERVICE
24 years experience
TV & Radio Sales
Small Appliances
Phonograph and Hi-Fi
Equipment and Supplies
24-HOUR SERVICE
INCLUDINFG SUNDAYS
Phone: FA. 8-3493
Emergency Calls: FA. 8-4766
1718 Andreo Ave., Torrance

● GARDENING (Landscaping) 20

Landscaping and Renovating
Lawns Reseeded - Old & New
Free Estimates - Good Work
Walter Bell
TErminal 4-1829

LAWNMOWERS
SHARPENED—REPAIRED
Small Motors — Overhauled
Brazing — Welding
LAWNS PLANTED
REASONABLE
FREE ESTIMATES
2 SMALL BALES
PEAT MOSS
TOTAL 5 CU. FT.
Reg. $4.50
Special This Month
$3.10
PARAMOUNT BUILDERS Supply & Nursery
3401 TORRANCE BLVD
FR. 4-3428

Garden Equipment RENTALS
REPAIRING — SHARPENING
GARDENA Mower Works
1609 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.
GARDENA ME. 4-6131